

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR JA KS

SUBJECT: UPPER HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE DISCUSSION  
OF KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE -- AUGUST 28

SUMMARY: DURING UPPERHOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SESSION  
AUGUST 28, FONMIN MASAYOSHI OHIRA FIELDDED SERIES OF HOSTILE  
QUESTIONS BY OPPOSITION SPOKESMEN BASED ON PREMISE THAT ROKG  
AGENTS ABDUCTED KIM TAE-CHUNG FROM JAPAN, THUS VIOLATING

JAPAN'S SOVEREIGNTY. CONSEQUENTLY, OPPOSITION SPOKESMEN CALL  
FOR CUT-OFF OF JAPANESE AID TO ROK. IN TEMPERATE RESPONSES, OHIRA  
HAS SOUGHT TO DEFER CONSIDERATION OF SUCH STRONG GOJ RESPONSE UNTIL  
FACTS OF CASE CLARIFIED. HOWEVER, OHIRA DID EXPRESS DIS-  
SATISFACTION WITH EXTENT OF ROK COOPERATION IN JAPANESE  
INVESTIGATION OF CASE. IN SEEKING TO RESPOND TO OPPOSITION IN  
DIET MODERATELY, HOWEVER, OHIRA MUST ALSO AVOID INADVERTANTLY  
DIMINISHING STRENGTH OF GOJ PUBLIC SIGNALS TO ROKG ABOUT  
SERIOUSNESS OF THIS AFFAIR. OHIRA MADE SIMILAR STATEMENTS  
IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY PRESS DURING LUNCHEON APPEARANCE  
AT JAPAN PRESS CLUB IMMEDIATELY AFTER SESSION. END SUMMARY.

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1. IN EXCHANGE WITH HIDEO DEN (JSP) OHIRA CONFIRMED THAT GOJ WOULD CONTINUE TO REQUEST THAT ROKG PERMIT KIM TAE-CHUNG TO RETURN TO JAPAN TO HELP CLARIFY FACTS IN CASE. ASKED BY DEN WHETHER GOJ INTENDS TO SEND VICE MINISTER TO SEOUL TO QTE NEGOTIATE UNQTE THIS MATTER, OHIRA STATED THAT GOJ SHOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO CLARIFY FACTS, BUT HAS NO INTENTION OF SENDING NEGOTIATOR TO ROK AT THIS TIME. OHIRA EXPRESSED OPEN DISSATISFACTION WITH LACK OF ROKG COOPERATION UP TO NOW IN INVESTIGATION OF CASE BY JAPAN. OHIRA ADDED THAT GOJ OBSERVING ROKG REACTIONS CLOSELY, BUT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GOJ BE GIVEN TIME TO CONSIDER QTE SPECIFIC MEASURES AND THEIR TIMING UNQTE. OHIRA REPLIED TO FURTHER QUESTION THAT GOJ NOT NOW CONTEMPLATING RECALL OF AMBASSADOR FROM ROK, BUT NOTED THAT THIS STEP MIGHT BE CONSIDERED, PENDING CLARIFICATION OF FACTS OF CASE.

2. IN RESPONSE TO DEN CHARGE THAT MANY KOREAN STUDENTS ARRESTED AFTER RETURNING TO ROK FROM STUDY IN JAPAN, AND THAT SOME KOREAN STUDENTS ARE BEING HARASSED IN JAPAN BY ROKG AGENTS, OHIRA SAID THAT IT WOULD BE SERIOUS MATTER IF ROKG AGENTS SHOULD ATTEMPT TO EXTEND AUTHORITY TO JAPAN. HOWEVER, OHIRA STRESSED THAT THERE NO EVIDENCE OF SUCH ACTION. IN ACKNOWLEDGING THAT TREATMENT OF STUDENTS RETURNING TO KOREA IS INTERNAL AFFAIR OF ROKG, OHIRA EXPRESSED REGRET, ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS, ABOUT ARRESTS MADE THERE.

3. ASKED BY SHIZUE KATO (JSP) TO CLARIFY POSTPONMENT OF JAPAN-ROK MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE, OHIRA EXPLAINED THAT DECISION TAKEN ON BASIS OF JUDGEMENT OF BOTH SIDES THAT CONVENING CONFERENCE WHICH REQUIRES QTE FULL NATIONAL UNDERSTANDING UNQTE WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE IN VIEW OF LACK OF CLARIFICATION OF FULL FACTS OF KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE. OHIRA DENIED THAT MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE POSTPONED BECAUSE OF ROKG CONSIDERATION OF PRIMIN TANAKA FORTHCOMING VISIT TO EUROPE AND SOVIET UNION.

4. PRESSED BY KATO ON PROPRIETY OF CONTINUING JAPANESE ECONOMIC AID TO ROK, OHIRA REPLIED TESTILY THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT SCOLDING IF GOJ POSITION REMAINED QTE VAGUE UNQTE AFTER FACTS OF KIM CASE CLARIFIED. OHIRA EXPLAINED THAT JAPAN SHOULD DEAL WITH OTHER COUNTRIES FAIRLY AND ON BASIS OF EQUALITY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND THAT IN CONDUCTING FOREIGN RELATIONS, MOFA SHOULD RESPECT POLITICAL SYSTEMS CHOSEN BY OTHER COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, OHIRA AGREED THAT PUBLIC FUNDS SHOULD NOT BE USED TO SUPPORT PARTICULAR REGIMES OUT OF POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. OHIRA STRESSED THAT JAPAN HAS NO OTHER COURSE BUT TO CONTINUE ASSISTANCE TO ROK, PENDING CLARIFICATION OF FACTS OF KIM CASE.

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY KUNIHICO SHIBUYA (KOMEITO

PARTY) ABOUT MEASURES WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED, OHIRA SAID GOJ HAS NOTHING SPECIFIC IN MIND AT PRESENT, BUT ULTIMATELY WISHED TO ACT IN FAIR MANNER WHICH COULD BE UNDERSTOOD AT HOME AND ABROAD.

6. IN LUNCHEON APPEARANCE AT JAPAN PRESS CLUB FOLLOWING COMMITTEE SESSION, OHIRA RESPONDED EXTEMPORANEOUSLY TO SIMILAR QUESTIONS IN SIMILAR VEIN. ACCORDING TO PRESS, HE EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH FAILURE OF ROK TO COOPERATE IN INVESTIGATION OF CASE BY JAPAN. ASKED WHETHER KIM ABDUCTION MIGHT AFFECT GOJ POLICY ON KOREAN QUESTION IN UNGA, OHIRA SAID THAT MORE FACTS WOULD HAVE TO BE KNOWN BEFORE JAPAN COULD DECIDE, BUT THAT IT PREMATURE TO COMMENT ON GOJ POLICY SINCE UNGA DISCUSSION WILL NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL LATE NEXT MONTH.  
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